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Proceeding	91194679
Party	Plaintiff John P. Avlon
Correspondence Address	CAROL A GENIS KL GATES LLP PO BOX 1135 CHICAGO, IL 60690-1135 UNITED STATES robert.barz@klgates.com, chicago.trademarks@klgates.com, carol.genis@klgates.com, christina.huynh@klgates.com
Submission	Plaintiff's Notice of Reliance
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In the matter of application Serial No. 77/514,179 Published in the *Official Gazette* on December 29, 2009

JOHN PHILLIPS AVLON, an individual))
Opposer,)
v.) Opposition No. 91194679
DEMARCUS FREEMON, an individual	
Applicant.)))

United States Patent and Trademark Office Trademark Trial and Appeal Board P.O. Box 1451 Alexandria, VA 22313-1451

OPPOSER'S THIRD NOTICE OF RELIANCE

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 2.122(e) and TTAB Rule 704.08(b), Opposer, John P. Avlon,

hereby submits, and gives notice of its reliance on, the following internet materials:

Printed Publication and	Trial
Source (URL)	Ex.
	No.
Independent Nation – John Avlon	18
http://johnavlon.com/my-books/independent-nation	
Independent Nation – Homepage	19
web.archive.org/web/20040313054255/http://www.independentnation.org/	
Independent Nation – Homepage	20
web.archive.org/web/20050208201510/http://www.independentnation.org/	
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Politics/dp/1400050243/ref=sr_1_1?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1344902472&sr=1-	
1&keywords=independent+nation	

Exhibits 18-40 are relevant to at least the similarity of the parties' marks, likelihood of confusion and Opposer's priority of use and the scope of Opposer's goods and services. Attached hereto are the relevant portions of those exhibits.

Dated: August 14, 2012 Respectfully submitted,

JOHN PHILLIPS AVLON

By: /Robert Barz/ One of His Attorneys

Carol A. Genis, Esq. Robert J. Barz, Esq. K&L GATES LLP P.O. Box 1135 Chicago, Illinois 60690-1135 Telephone: (312) 807-4272

Fax: (312) 827-8084

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

The undersigned, an attorney, hereby certifies that a copy of the foregoing OPPOSER'S THIRD NOTICE OF RELIANCE is being electronically served to Herbert T. Patty, Esq. at httpattylaw@gmail.com and deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first-class mail this 14th day of August 2012 in an envelope addressed to Applicant's counsel at:

Herbert T. Patty, Esq. 1625 The Alameda, Suite 508 San Jose, CA 95126

> /Robert Barz/ Robert Barz, Esq.

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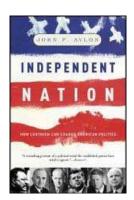
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Independent Nation

Independent Nation How Centrists Can Change American Politics

by John P. Avlon



Fifty percent of American voters define themselves as political moderates, two-thirds favor political solutions that come from the center of the political spectrum, and Independents outnumber both Democrats and Republicans. Bill Clinton and George W. Bush each explicitly used Centrist strategies to win the White House — and twenty-first-century candidates will be compelled to do the same.

Independent Nation documents the rich history of the defining political movement of our time. Organized as a series of short and colorful political biographies, it offers an insightful and engaging analysis of the successes and failures of key Centrist leaders throughout the

twentieth century. In the process, it demonstrates that Centrism is not only a winning political strategy but an enlightened governing philosophy that best reflects the will of the people by putting patriotism ahead of partisanship and the national interest ahead of special interests.

Buy Book

Reviews

"Throughout my years in Congress, I have been guided by a simple philosophy — to make government work. The most effective brand of politics forms center-out coalitions over rigid party ideology or cynical political maneuvering. Lately though, extreme partisanship and an 'all-or-nothing attitude' seem to define the culture of Washington. Independent Nation lays out the history and heritage of centrist politics, starting with the Founding Father's deep distrust of partisanship along side the story of some of this century's leading and best known centrists. Like it or not, the future of American politics is in the vast center. Read John Avlon's Independent Nation — it's an excellent reminder that some of our best leaders have also been our most mainstream."

—Senator John Breaux [Democrat, Louisiana]

"Effective leadership requires independence and courage to look beyond partisan politics for the best solution. John P. Avlon's Independent Nation details the history of principled political leaders who fearlessly took on special interests from both the left and right in defense of national interest. It offers much-needed historic perspective on our pursuit of a more civil society."

-Rudolph W. Giuliani [Republican, New York]

"Into the prevailing winds of political wisdom sails New York Sun columnist

John P. Avlon with Independent Nation, a brave and compelling case for the

past persistence and future dominance of American Centrism."

- -Ed Kilgore, Policy Director of the Democratic Leadership Council
- "A rewarding portrait of a political trend the established parties have tried to ignore."
- -Barron's
- "The essay-size bios . . . are very revealing, instructive, and full of new insights about stories we thought we already knew . . . The author makes a good point when he suggests that political parties should be able to bridge various policies that would appear to be perfect fits . . ."
- -Booklist
- "Author John Avlon has made a significant contribution to the ranks of literature covering the middle of ideological thought."
- -Gregsopinion.com
- "A compelling distillation of recent political history through the prism of

centrist politics. It's well written and fun to read... and its timing couldn't be better."

-New York Post

"To Avlon centrism is not a matter of compromise or reading polls; rather it's an antidote to the politics of divisiveness, providing principled opposition to political extremes. His description of Maine Republican senator Margaret Chase Smith's morally and politically courageous Senate speech rejecting McCarthyism four years before the Senate censured him embodies Avlon's view of centrism, and he uses that example to demonstrate the value of centrists like Smith to the body politic. Perhaps the most remarkable achievement he describes was that of Earl Warren, who in 1946 ran for governor of California in the Republican, Democratic and Progressive primaries — and won all three. Avlon's centrist tent is a large one: the political campaigns of presidents as diverse as Theodore Roosevelt, Wilson, JFK, Nixon and Clinton are chronicled to demonstrate the staying power and effectiveness of centrist politics."

- -Publishers Weekly
- "John Avlon presented his book on C-Span Book TV (April 2004) He is a wise young man with good political instincts and a solid sense of what it means to be an independent centrist. Indeed, that is where the majority of Americans reside. He hit the mark time and time again, correctly concluding that centrists (moderates) are about 'the reconciliation of competing interests."

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HOW THE VITAL CENTER IS CHANGING AMERICAN POLITICS

Government is not a warfare of interests.

—Woodrow Wilson



Author, John P. Avlon



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We stand in the presence of an awakened nation, impatient of partisan make-believe.

—Woodrow Wilson



Author, John P. Avlon

"... a brave and compelling case for the past persistence and future dominance of American Centrism." —Ed Kilgore, Policy Director of the Democratic Leadership Council



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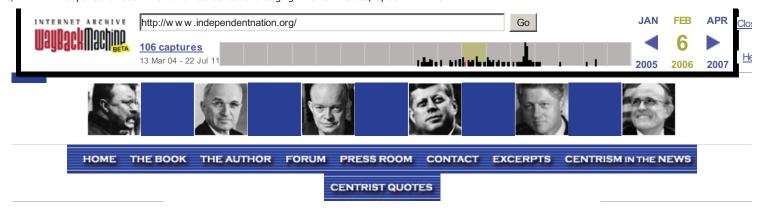
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View John Avlon on The Daily Show with Jon Stewart I shall seek the support of the people of both parties. I can do this honorably because I am an independent and therefore in a position to serve the people regardless of their politics or mine.

—Governor Earl Warren



Author, John P. Avlon

"Effective leadership requires independence and courage to look beyond partisan politics for the best solution. John P. Avlon's Independent Nation details the history of principled political leaders who fearlessly took on special interested from both the left and right in defense of national interest. It offers much-needed historic perspective on our pursuit of a more civil society."—Rudolph W. Giuliani



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—George Washington



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By Joseph Minarik, Senior Vice President and Director of Research, Committee for Economic Development; Member, BPC's Debt Reduction Task Force

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In the matter of application Serial No. 77/514,179

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Technical Contact:

Network Solutions, LLC. customerservice@networksolutions.com 13861 Sunrise Valley Drive Herndon, VA 20171

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Registrar: NETWORK SOLUTIONS, LLC.

IP Address: 205.178.189.131 (ARIN & RIPE IP search)

Record Type: Domain Name **Server Type:** Other 6

Lock Status: clientTransferProhibited

WebSite Status: Parked

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 NS63.WORLDNIC.COM
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Independent Nation

How the Vital Center is Changing American Politics by John P. Avlon Published by Harmony Books

Extremes to the right and left of any political dispute are always wrong. —Dwight D. Eisenhower

The Book

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Fifty percent of American voters define themselves as political moderates, two-thirds favor political solutions that come from the center of the political spectrum, and Independents outnumber both Democrats and Republicans. Bill Clinton and George W. Bush each explicitly used Centrist strategies to win the White House—and twenty-first-century candidates will be compelled to do the same.

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In the matter of application Serial No. 77/514,179)
Published in the Official Gazette on December 29	

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V.	Opposition No. 91194679
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Independent Nation

HOW THE VITAL CENTER IS CHANGING AMERICAN POLITICS

THE AUTHOR HOME THE BOOK FORUM PRESS ROOM CONTACT EXCERPTS CENTRISM IN THE NEWS

CENTRIST QUOTES

The Author

Independent Nation How the Vital Center is Changing American Politics by John P. Avlon Published by Harmony Books

Neither party should be defined by pandering to the outer reaches of American politics and the agents of intolerance, whether they be Louis Farrakhan or Al Sharpton on the left, or Pat Robertson and Jerry Falwell on the right.

-Senator John McCain

JOHN P. AVLON (Fipp Avlon) is a columnist for the New York Sun and served as Chief Speechwriter and Deputy Communications Director for Mayor Rudolph Giuliani. He is the president of Prides Crossing Executive Communication and worked on Bill Clinton's 1996 presidential campaign. His essay on the attacks of September 11-"The Resilient City," published in the anthology Empire City: New York Through the Centuries—won acclaim from Fred Siegel, author of The Future Once Happened Here, as "the single best essay written in the wake of 9/11."

View author events





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It is time that the great center of our people, who reject the violence and unreasonableness of both the extreme right and the extreme left...declare their consciences.

—Senator Margaret Chase Smith

Author Events

3/16/04

Interview CBS National Radio National

Interview Metro Networks/eyeonbooks.com National

Talk and signing Olsson Bookstore Washington DC

3/30/2004

Yale University New Haven, CT















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I never submitted the whole system of my opinions to the creed of any party of men whatever in religion, in philosophy, in politics, or in anything else where I was capable of thinking for myself.

—Thomas Jefferson

John P. Avlon Press Room

On this site:

- John P. Avlon biography
- Author Events
- Contact John P. Avlon
- Centrist Quotes
- Interactive Discussion Forum

Online Reviews:

 <u>The New York Sun</u>, by Ed Kilgore, Policy Director of the Democratic Leadership Council

Related Links on the Web:

- Centrist Coalition.com
- Centrists.org
- The New York Sun

Buy the Book at amazon.com



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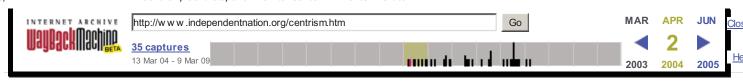
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TRIAL EXHIBIT # 33



HOW THE VITAL CENTER IS CHANGING AMERICAN POLITICS

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by John P. Avlon Published by Harmony Books

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The legitimate object of government is to do for a community of people whatever they need to have done, but cannot do at all, or cannot so well do, for themselves - in their separate, and individual capacities.

—Abraham Lincoln

Centrism in the News

Here we will feature centrists and centrism in the news.

"The Man Who Should Be President", The New York Sun, 3/4/04

"Waiting for Perot", The New York Sun, 3/1/04

"Founders vs. Factions", The New York Sun, 2/26/04

"The Return of Mr. Rule or Ruin", The New York Sun, 2/23/04

"Independents Speak, Dems Listen", The New York Sun, 1/29/04

"Let the Centrism Begin", The New York Sun, 1/19/04

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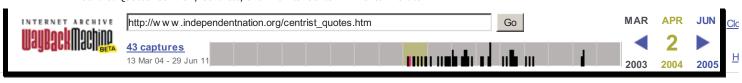
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HOW THE VITAL CENTER IS CHANGING AMERICAN POLITICS

Independent Nation How the Vital Center is Changing American Politics by John P. Avlon Published by Harmony

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Books

The future lies with those wise political leaders who realize that the great public is interested more in Government than in politics.

—Franklin D. Roosevelt

Classic Centrist Quotes

"I was no party man myself, and the first wish of my heart was, if parties did exist, to reconcile them."

—George Washington

"I never submitted the whole system of my opinions to the creed of any party of men whatever in religion, in philosophy, in politics, or in anything else where I was capable of thinking for myself. Such addiction is the last degradation of a free and moral agent. If I could not go to heaven but with a party, I would not go there at all."

—Thomas Jefferson

"Every difference of opinion is not a difference of principle. We are all Republicans; we are all Federalists."

-Thomas Jefferson

"I have always sought for the middle ground."

—James Madison

"There is nothing which I dread so much as a division of the republic into two great parties, each arranged under its leader, and concerting measures in opposition to each other. This, in my humble apprehension, it to be dreaded as the greatest political evil under our Constitution."

-John Adams

"The legitimate object of government is to do for a community of people whatever they need to have done, but cannot do at all, or cannot so well do, for themselves - in their separate, and individual capacities. In all that the people can individually do as well for themselves, government ought not to interfere."

—Abraham Lincoln

"We [must] hold the just balance and set ourselves as resolutely against improper corporate influence on the one hand as against demagogy and mob rule on the other."

-Theodore Roosevelt

"Just as Lincoln got contradictory advice from the extremists of both sides . . . so now I have to guard myself against the extremists of both sides."

-Theodore Roosevelt

"Be practical as well as generous in your ideals. Keep your eyes on the stars, but remember to keep your feet on the ground."

-Theodore Roosevelt

"We stand in the presence of an awakened nation, impatient of partisan make-believe"

-Woodrow Wilson

"Government is not a warfare of interests."

-Woodrow Wilson

"The future lies with those wise political leaders who realize that the great public is interested more in Government than in politics. The growing independence of voters, after all, has been proven by the votes in every Presidential election since my childhood and the tendency, frankly, is on the increase."

-Franklin D. Roosevelt

"Partisanship must end at the waters edge."

-Harry S. Truman

"I shall seek the support of the people of both parties. I can do this honorably because I am an independent and therefore in a position to serve the people regardless of their politics or mine."

-Governor Earl Warren

"It is time that the great center of our people, who reject the violence and unreasonableness of both the extreme right and the extreme left, searched their consciences, mustered their moral and physical courage, shed their intimidated silence, and declare their consciences."

-Senator Margaret Chase Smith

"It is only common sense to recognize that the great bulk of Americans, whether Republican or Democrat, face many common problems and agree on a number of basic objectives."

-Dwight D. Eisenhower

"Extremes to the right and left of any political dispute are always wrong."

—Dwight D. Eisenhower

"The middle of the road is all of the usable surface. The extremes, right and left, are in the gutters."

—Dwight D. Eisenhower

"Extreme opposites resemble the other. Each believes that we have only two choices: appeasement or war, suicide or surrender, humiliation or holocaust, to be either Red or dead."

-John F. Kennedy

"This is a time for courage and a time of challenge. Neither conformity nor complacency will do. Neither fanatics nor the faint-hearted are needed. And our duty as a Party is not to our Party alone, but to the Nation, and, indeed to all mankind. Our duty is not merely the preservation of political power but the preservation of peace and freedom."

-John F. Kennedy Undelivered Speech, November 22nd, 1963

"Extremists on the left tend to be just as critical of pragmatism as extremists on the right."

-Richard Nixon

"Idealism without pragmatism is impotent. Pragmatism without idealism is meaningless. The key to effective leadership is pragmatic idealism."

—Richard Nixon

"We must reject separatism from whatever source. We must reject white separatism. We must reject black separatism. We must hold true to the course on which we have embarked the course which leads to an integrated society of magnificent pluralism."

-Senator Edward Brooke

"On human rights, civil rights and environmental quality, I consider myself to be very liberal. On the management of government, on openness of

government, on strengthening individual liberties and local levels of government, I consider myself a conservative. And I don't see that the two attitudes are incompatible."

-Jimmy Carter

"The core of America is not racist. It is not hostile to women. It is increasingly offended by gay bashing. Yet it abhors government waste. It believes strongly in fiscal responsibility such as balanced budgets. It is proeconomic growth. It is concerned about the environment. It is intolerant of people on welfare who disdain the notion of work. But it wants poor kids to have school lunches and it wants to spend money to have good schools. In sum, most Americans are sensible, good-hearted, and prudent. The issue, then, is whether there is a political party that can welcome them home." —Senator Paul Tsongas

"When we put aside partisanship, embrace the best ideas regardless of where they come from and work for principled compromise, we can move America not left or right, but forward."

-Bill Clinton

"The choice we offer is not conservative or liberal. In many ways its not even Republican or Democratic. Its different. Its new. And it will work."

—Bill Clinton

``I'm too fiscally conservative for the Democrats and too socially liberal for the Republicans, like 75% of the American people."

-Governor Angus King

"To be locked into partisan politics doesn't permit you to think clearly."
—Mayor Rudy Giuliani

"Neither party should be defined by pandering to the outer reaches of American politics and the agents of intolerance, whether they be Louis Farrakhan or Al Sharpton on the left, or Pat Robertson and Jerry Falwell on the right."

-Senator John McCain

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TRIAL EXHIBIT # 35

Charging RINO

A centrist voice in a period of extremism.

SUNDAY, MAY 15, 2005

Book Review: Independent Nation

If you have not yet had the opportunity to read John P. Avlon's Independent Nation: How the Vital Center is Changing American Politics (Harmony Books, 2004) [available here], I strongly recommend you get your hands on a copy. Avlon, a columnist for the New York Sun and former aide to Rudy Giuliani who also worked on Bill Clinton's 1996 reelection campaign, offers an eminently readable "centrist manifesto," with profiles of twentieth-century centrist leaders bookended by practical introductory and concluding remarks offering a useful blueprint for how centrists can overcome the extremes on both the left and the right.

Centrists, Avlon argues, offer "an independent path between the two extremes - putting patriotrism before partisanship and the national interest before special interests." By balancing idealism and realism, pursuing practical solutions through civil discussion, centrists distinguish themselves from the "relatively small number of extreme partisans [both left and right] who view their opponents as enemies and seem obsessed with imposing their beliefs on the American people."

The book's main portion is a series of four overarching sections, each of which is further broken down into concise political biographies of centrist figures, ranging from Teddy Roosevelt to Bill Clinton to Jesse Ventura. This is followed by a look at the 2000 election, in which Avlon claims that George W. Bush successfully donned a centrist mantle while Al Gore squandered his opportunity to do so in favor of a recycled left-wing populist message. In 2004, which Avlon does not discuss, I would argue that neither Bush nor Kerry made serious attempts to hold the center, with both opting to shore up their partisan bases while neglecting those of us in the middle of the road [if pressed, I would probably have to say that Kerry made slightly more of an effort than President Bush, but it was minimal].

Independent Nation is much more than a collection of historical profiles - it offers a meaningful route to political success for centrist candidates at all levels of political life. By "attempting to find a mutually beneficial balance of rights and responsibilities consistent with the creation of a more civil society"; by "restoring a sense of balance with backbone" [great phrase!] Avlon argues that the centrist majority in America can rise up and triumph politically, returning the

About Me



Name: JBD

Reviews of books old and new; news and commentary on book history, library culture, digital humanities, archives and related subjects. Written by Jeremy Dibbell, a bibliophile, haunter of used bookstores, and Rare Books/Social Media Librarian for LibraryThing. Email: philobiblos@gmail.com.

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Previous Posts

McCain Issues Challenge to Centrists

Pat Roberts Wavers on Nuclear Option

In the News

Quote of the Day

<u>Bipartisan Action on Climate</u> Change

Back from the Brink?

Saturday Papers

CIA Drone Takes Out al-Qaeda Leader extremists to the fringes from whence they came.

I first learned of Avlon's book when he appeared on Jon Stewart's "The Daily Show" [video here] - this was the episode where Stewart decried the lack of moderates taking to the streets and shouting "BE REASONABLE!" - I ordered a copy of *Independent Nation* the same night. It is an indispensable volume for anyone involved with the centrist revival, and its lessons are instructive to readers of all political stripes. Every officeholder should keep a copy close at hand.

posted by JBD @ 3:19 PM 0 comments

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"Intensifying Pressures"



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TRIAL EXHIBIT # 36

The Moderate Voice

An Internet hub with domestic and international news, analysis, original reporting, and popular features from the left, center, indies, centrists, moderates, and right

In Romney-Ryan, Conservatives Get Their Man

WASHINGTON – Voters aren't driven by a vice presidential pick, even if conservatives are slathering their primary wounds over his choice, which Mitt Romney expected. But policy just took center stage with Mitt Romney's choice of Paul Ryan, so whatever focus was on Pres. Obama's...

In Response to Greta Van Susteren's 'Bold' Essay

POSTED BY DORIAN DE WIND, MILITARY AFFAIRS COLUMNIST AUG 13TH, 2012 | 3 COMMENTS

Even though she now works for the Fox News Channel, I will not say anything negative about Greta Van Susteren for several reasons: She is partially of Dutch ancestry — with a name like van Susteren... She worked for CNN for about eight years, prior to taking her "fair and balanced" job. Her sister, Lise, is/was a Democrat, writes for the Huffington Post and, as a forensic psychiatrist, she is a formidable advocate for the humane treatment of the mentally ill and for refugees seeking political...

read more

In Romney-Ryan, Conservatives Get Their Man

POSTED BY TAYLOR MARSH, GUEST VOICE COLUMNIST AUG 13TH, 2012 | 2 COMMENTS

WASHINGTON – Voters aren't driven by a vice presidential pick, even if conservatives are slathering their primary wounds over his choice, which Mitt Romney expected. But policy just took center stage with Mitt Romney's choice of Paul Ryan, so whatever focus was on Pres. Obama's first term just shifted to something broader. The choice of Paul Ryan isn't simply about the base either, because Mitt Romney is betting they'll do just about anything to keep Pres....

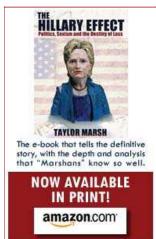
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USAT/Gallup Poll: Paul Ryan Gets Low Marks for VP

POSTED BY JOE GANDELMAN, EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

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Forget what you may be hearing on Fox News, from Republican partisans and the ideologically-based news media. We now have the first poll reacting to presumptive Republican Presidential nominee Mitt Romney's choice of Rep. Paul Ryan to be his running mate — and the initial reaction is that it is not a game-changer: Americans don't believe GOP presidential contender Mitt Romney hit a home run with his choice of Paul Ryan as a running mate, a USA TODAY/Gallup Poll finds, with more...

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What Was Romney Thinking?

POSTED BY ROBERT STEIN AUG 13TH, 2012 | 1 COMMENT

If he had settled for an attack puppy like Tim Pawlenty rather than controversial Paul Ryan, the GOP standard bearer would not be facing new questions about his wealth, taxes and social insensitivity. "Instead of a referendum on his own performance," political strategists point out, "the president has an opening to turn the election into a referendum on the vision that Mr. Ryan has advanced and Mitt Romney has adopted." What was the usually cautious contender thinking? "Romney, the turnaround...

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The Further Adventures Of Job Creator And Runyan, The Libertarian Wonder Boy

POSTED BY MICHAEL SILVERSTEIN, WALL STREET COLUMNIST AUG 13TH, 2012 | 2 COMMENTS

[The scene is a stall in a Goldman Sachs washroom where the dynamic duo change clothes as part of their crusade against socialism. They've just come from a party celebrating Goldman's escape from criminal charges related to a whizbang deal it pulled off a few years earlier. Job Creator and Ryan are changing from their usual country club attire into the working men's clothes they wear while raising the consciousness of little people voters...] Give me a hand with this damn cummerbund, Wonder Boy....

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A prediction

POSTED BY KAY WOOD AUG 13TH, 2012 | 6 COMMENTS

I just know it. If Romney and Ryan get elected they're going to Thelma and Louise the economy. When everything totally falls apart as it does every time their sort of strategies are tried,



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they'll blame the Democrats for the mess. That's what they do and we always seem to fall for it. Will it happen again. Well... One has to stand in awe. These guys are genius manipulators.

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Video Animation: Romney Chooses Ryan (With a Batman Theme)

POSTED BY JOE GANDELMAN, EDITOR-IN-CHIEF AUG 13TH, 2012 | NO COMMENTS

Another lightning-quick, topical video animation from Taiwaan's Next Media Animation – this time on presumptive Republican Presidential nominee Mitt Romney choosing Rep. Paul Ryan as his running mate. With a Batman theme:

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Political Quote of the Day: What the Ryan Pick Says About Romney

POSTED BY JOE GANDELMAN, EDITOR-IN-CHIEF AUG 13TH, 2012 | 2 COMMENTS



Our political Quote of the Day comes from NBC's First Read team of Chuck Todd, Mark Murray, Domenico Montanaro, and Brooke Brower on what Mitt Romney's selection of Rep. Paul Ryan to be his running mate says about him: So how will

this play out for Romney? By picking Ryan, he made the calculation that he needed to pick someone to help redefine himself, first and foremost. The move also serves to fire up conservatives, give the GOP ticket a jolt of youthful energy, and make the case he...

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Tag-Team Flip-Floppers- Romney and Ryan

POSTED BY ROBERT A LEVINE, TMV GUEST VOICE COLUMNIST AUG 13TH, 2012 | 3 COMMENTS



One of Romney's major problems in the eyes of the electorate is his characterization as a flip-flopper, changing his mind about past stances on various issues for political gain. This attribute of his has been noted throughout his political

career, arising this time regarding his past support of the Massachusetts health care plan and universal health care, being for abortion rights and gays in the military, agreeing that global warming is real, favoring the TARP bailouts, immigration reform, an...

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Let Sarah Palin Speak (Cartoon)

POSTED BY CAGLE CARTOONS AUG 13TH, 2012 | NO COMMENTS



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Paul Ryan's Selection As Romney Vice President Choice Resets the Campaign

POSTED BY **JOE GANDELMAN**, **EDITOR-IN-CHIEF** AUG 13TH, 2012 | **6 COMMENTS**



If there's one thing left and right,
Democratic and Republican, many centrists
and independent pundits, political pros and
analysts agree on it's this: you can dispute
over the specifics about how it has
changed the campaign, you can dispute

over the degree of how it has changed it, but Republican Mitt Romney's decision to tap Rep. Paul Ryan as his Vice Presidential running mater has changed the campaign. The Washington Post's Chris Cillizza offers five key areas in which...

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Synchronized Campaign (Cartoon)

POSTED BY CAGLE CARTOONS AUG 13TH, 2012 | NO COMMENTS



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Why Romney's Assertion He Can Fix The Economy Is Flapdoodle: Report From 20 Paws Ranch

POSTED BY SHAUN MULLEN, TMV COLUMNIST

Orlando Sentinel:

Romney campaign cancels Monday visit to Orlando

Beltway Blips

NCOM − Top Stories

- The Internet pokes fun at
 Paul Ryan August 13, 2012
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themoderatevoice.com 4/21



Herbert Hoover's so-called business acumen crippled his presidency Mitt Romney's leading qualification to be president — okay, his only qualification — is that as an experienced corporate executive officer he can lead America out

of the economic wilderness in which it has wandered since Barack Obama . . . excuse me, George Bush drew on his own entrepreneurial experience to jump start America's ongoing economic malaise by pushing through an enormous tax cut for...

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Oops! Two More Military Olympians Events

POSTED BY DORIAN DE WIND, MILITARY AFFAIRS COLUMNIST AUG 12TH, 2012 | 3 COMMENTS

In the excitement to summarize and applaud the achievements of our military Olympians, your (pro-bono) "reporter" neglected to provide the results of the last two military Olympians' competitions yesterday in London. With my apologies to my one or two readers, but especially to Army Spc. Dennis Bowsher, the lone U.S. competitor in the men's modern pentathlon, and to Army Staff Sgt. John Nunn, competing in the 50-kilometer race-walk event, here it goes. The men's modern pentathlon...

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Paul Ryan and the Triumph of Theory

POSTED BY E.J. DIONNE, JR., WASHINGTON POST COLUMNIST AUG 12TH, 2012 \mid 6 COMMENTS

WASHINGTON — If Paul Ryan were a liberal, conservatives would describe him as a creature of Washington who has spent virtually all of his professional life as a congressional aide, a staffer at an ideological think tank, and, finally, as a member of Congress. In the right's shorthand: he never met a payroll. If they were in a sunny mood, these conservatives would readily concede that Ryan is a nice guy who's fun to talk to. But they'd also insist that he is an impractical...

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Authentication Error – RESOLVED

POSTED BY T-STEEL, SITE ADMINISTRATOR AUG 12TH, 2012 | 3 COMMENTS

Hello. Many of you were getting an authentication prompt for user names and passwords when trying to comment, view a page, and other activities (including posting for authors).

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There were some upgrades performed on the site and an administrative app was left running. Yours truly unleashed words of mass destruction to the hardware tech folks for compromising The Moderate Voice like that. Nevertheless, that has been

deactivated and removed. You should be able to comment, browse, and post normally. Thank...

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Quote of the Day: The Real Reason Romney Chose Paul Ryan?

POSTED BY JOE GANDELMAN, EDITOR-IN-CHIEF AUG 12TH, 2012 | 4 COMMENTS

I have a great deal of respect for the analysis of Time's Mark Halperin, who makes the effort to really stand back and analyze and isn't always following the popular narrative of the moment. He thinks some of the left and right agreement about Republican Mitt Romney picking Rep. Paul Ryan to be his running mate is off the mark. He doesn't agree that the pick was risky game change pick: To be sure, there are some potential downsides in choosing Ryan, who is untested in several key...

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As the London Summer Olympics Come to a Close, Kudos for Our U.S. Military Olympians

POSTED BY DORIAN DE WIND, MILITARY AFFAIRS COLUMNIST AUG 12TH, 2012 | NO COMMENTS



An Op-Ed today in the New York Times by Frank Bruni beautifully captures the spectacle, the spirit, the "firsts" and the "mosts," the triumphs, the pride, the lessons and, most of all, the inspiration to the world that the 2012 London Olympics

represented. Our 16 military Olympians who represented their country and their military Service most certainly shared in all of that: Army Sgt. Vincent Hancock became the first shotgun shooter to win consecutive Olympic gold medals in men's skeet,...

read more

Romney-Ryan to Appear on 60 Minutes Tonight

POSTED BY **JOE GANDELMAN**, **EDITOR-IN-CHIEF** AUG 12TH, 2012 | 1 **COMMENT**

With this announcement it sounds as if Team Romney finally is

(legal issues)

- Liz Mair
- LT Nixon Rants
- · Maggie's Farm
- Marc Ambinder
- Mark Daniels
- Michael Totten
- Mirror On America
- Moderate Voters
- Notes From A Grumpy Old
 Man
- Obsidian Wings
- · Out of the Binjo Ditch
- Oxblog
- Polimom Says
- Political Thermopylae
- Politics Plus
- Polurls Purple (Political URL blog aggregator for "Purple States" and people)
- Post Politics (Nashville Post)
- Prairie Weather
- QandO
- Radical Middle
- Random Fate (THE LATE JACK GRANT'S BLOG)
- Right Democrat
- Robert Reich
- · RogerSimon.com
- Secular Blasphemy
- Shades of Gray and Black
- Short Woman
- Taylor Marsh
- The Big Stick
- The Dean's Report
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themoderatevoice.com 6/21



getting it's political act together:
Presumptive Republican Presidential
nominee Mitt Romney and his Veep pick
Rep. Paul Ryan will appear on CBS' 60
Minutes tonight: CBS News chief
Washington correspondent and anchor of

"Face the Nation" Bob Schieffer will sit down with Mitt Romney and Paul Ryan Sunday for their first interview since the Republican presidential nominee announced Ryan as his running mate. The joint...

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Paul Ryan: Ayn Rand to Romney

POSTED BY ROBERT STEIN
AUG 12TH, 2012 | 6 COMMENTS

The Republican ticket will consist of Two Suits, aptly enough for a party of wealth, privilege and social Darwinism. Mitt Romney's choice of Paul Ryan will propel the word "wonk" into Google heaven, reflecting the poverty of ideas in a time of nasty attack ads and sound bites. His not-Palin qualities may elevate the tone of the campaign, if not the content. The VP nominee could offer focus to the fuzzy figure President Obama has dubbed "Romney Hood" and allow serious analysis of their desire...

read more

Is Romney Taking a Risk?

POSTED BY **PRAIRIE WEATHER**AUG 12TH, 2012 | **NO COMMENTS**

Is Romney taking a risk? Nate Silver of FiveThirtyEight thinks he is and Paul Ryan is that risk. When the status quo isn't proceeding in a way that you feel is favorable. When you have less to lose. When you need — pardon the cliché, but it's appropriate here — a "game change." When a prudent candidate like Mitt Romney picks someone like Representative Paul D. Ryan of Wisconsin as his running mate, it suggests that he felt he held a losing position against President Obama. The theme...

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Romney, Ryan and Cheap Grace

POSTED BY **OWEN GRAY**AUG 12TH, 2012 | **2 COMMENTS**



Now that Mitt Romney has chosen Paul Ryan as his running mate, the transformation of the Republican Party is complete. The Party of Lincoln is now the Party of Ayn Rand. The party of small

- The New Moderate
- The Pajama Pundit
- The Pajama Pundit
- The Pragmatic Center
- The Probligo
- The Pulse Review
- The Reaction
- The Readout (POTUS XM)
- The Real News
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- · Writes Like She Talks

Left Voices

- 2 Political Junkies
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- Crooked Timber



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business and the family farm is now the party of big business and private capital. One might have thought that the Great Recession would have halted the Republican March to Plutocracy. After all, it was Republican faith in unregulated markets that brought about the economic meltdown. Alan Greenspan admitted as...

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Weekend Book Review – Ayn Rand and the World She Made

POSTED BY RON BEASLEY
AUG 12TH, 2012 | 4 COMMENTS

With the Ayn Rand cultist Paul Ryan becoming the Republican Vice Presidential Candidate today I thought this might be a good opportunity to republish my reveiw of the Ayn Rand Biography by Anne C. Heller from 2010.

The picture on the

left may represent the beginning of the deregulation frenzy that resulted in the current world wide economic disaster. It was taken...

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Hot July and Climate Change Denier

POSTED BY CAGLE CARTOONS AUG 12TH, 2012 | 1 COMMENT



John Cole, The Scranton Times-Tribune LEGAL NOTICE ON CARTOON: This copyrighted cartoon is licensed to run on TMV. Reproduction elsewhere without licensing is strictly prohibited. See great cartoons by all the top political cartoonists

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The Alan Greenspan, Paul Ryan Nexus: Ayn Rand

POSTED BY MICHAEL SILVERSTEIN, WALL STREET COLUMNIST AUG 12TH, 2012 | 2 COMMENTS

We've already had an Ayn Rand acolyte as chairman of the Fed. A guy who thought unregulated markets were self-correcting. And you know where that led. Now we have another Randian believer who may soon be a heartbeat away from the presidency. Cry the beloved country!

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Romney Campaign Required Multiple Years of Tax Returns from Paul Ryan, Why Won't He Do the Same?

POSTED BY **JANET SHAN**AUG 12TH, 2012 | **2 COMMENTS**



Adam Zyglis, The Buffalo News The Mitt Romney campaign examined multiple years of Paul Ryan's tax returns before he was chosen as the vice presidential nominee, so how come the American people can't see more than a year and one-half of Mitt

Romney's tax returns? In fact, it was a requirement of the campaign. Shouldn't we be able to vet him in much the same manner as he vetted Paul Ryan? Talk about hypocrisy and hubris. Mitt Romney's presidential campaign requested "several"...

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A Rap for Mitt Romney: Lukerative Mitt Romney

POSTED BY JOE GANDELMAN, EDITOR-IN-CHIEF AUG 12TH, 2012 | NO COMMENTS

Some Republicans think that Mitt Romney has gotten a bum rap, but as partisans use various Internet venues and ways of expressing their support for Romney or Barack Obama, rap is coming into play. And here's a new pro-Romney rap: Lukerative Mitt Romney:

read more

At Last The Fall Schedule Comes Into Focus

POSTED BY HART WILLIAMS, GUEST VOICE COLUMNIST AUG 11TH, 2012 | 2 COMMENTS

NOTE: Upon sober reflection, I realize that my earlier cartoon was perhaps not a model of moderation and civility.

Consequently, I offer this much more palatable cartoon as a substitute to any offended by "Mitt and the Munster" (which is at the original site). Charles Pierce in Esquire puts it so well that my elaboration is unnecessary: Leave it to Willard Romney, international man of principle, to get himself bullied into being bold and independent. Make no mistake. In his decision...

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Quote of the Day: Romney Was Emulating John McCain When He Picked Paul Ryan for Vice President

POSTED BY JOE GANDELMAN, EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

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- Shakespeare's Sister
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- The Mahablog
- The American Street
- The Democratic Daily
- The Drudge Retort
- The Field
- The Heretik
- The Huffington Post
- The Left Coaster
- The Lefty Directory
- The Reality-Based

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Our political Quote of the Day on a very political and quotable day comes from University of Virginia political scientist Larry Sabato and his colleagues Kyle Kondik and Geoffrey Skelley on Republican presumptive Presidential nominee Mitt Romney's picking Rep. Paul Ryan to be his running mate. Sabato, Kondik and Skelly's analysis comes in a special edition of Sabato's must-read Crystal Ball. And they make a point I've also made about Romney's pick. There is a sense of...

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ASAP: David Axelrod Sends Out Fund-Raising Email Using Paul Ryan

POSTED BY JOE GANDELMAN, EDITOR-IN-CHIEF AUG 11TH, 2012 | NO COMMENTS

Well, that didn't take long. Barack Obama's campaign maven David Axelrod has just sent out an email using presumptive Republican Presidential nominee Mitt Romney's selection of Rep. Paul Ryan as a fundraising tool. Complete with link to video. Here's the complete email so you can see how it is being framed. Friend — This morning, Mitt Romney and Paul Ryan stood on a platform in Norfolk, Virginia, and introduced themselves to the country as "America's Comeback...

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Romney Loves Paul Ryan

POSTED BY CAGLE CARTOONS AUG 11TH, 2012 | NO COMMENTS



http://www.esquire.com/blogs/politics/paul-ryan-romney-vp-pick-11562917 LEGAL NOTICE ON CARTOON: This copyrighted cartoon is licensed to run on TMV. Reproduction elsewhere without licensing is strictly prohibited. See great cartoons by

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EYEpopper: Mormon Romney's Veep Ryan is Catholic & Deep Admirer of Ayn Rand. Here's Ayn Rand on Abortion...

POSTED BY DR. CLARISSA PINKOLA ESTÉS, MANAGING EDITOR OF TMV, AND COLUMNIST

AUG 11TH, 2012 | 15 COMMENTS

[Ayn Rand on Abortion] "An embryo has no rights. Rights do not pertain to a potential, only to an actual being. A child

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cannot acquire any rights until it is born. The living take precedence over the not-yet-living (or the unborn). [Ayn Rand on Abortion] "Abortion is a moral right—which should be left to the sole discretion of the woman involved; morally, nothing other

than her wish in the matter is to be considered. Who can conceivably have the right to dictate to her what disposition...

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Paul Ryan As Romney Veep: Saving Governor Romney or Sinking Him? (Blog and News Roundup) UPDATED: 4:31 P.M. PST

POSTED BY JOE GANDELMAN, EDITOR-IN-CHIEF AUG 11TH, 2012 | 15 COMMENTS



Campaign 2012 now enters into a new phase. Presumptive Republican
Presidential nominee has selected Rep.
Paul Ryan to be his running mate. Now the question becomes will Ryan – a darling of conservatives, Tea Party members and talk

show hosts — will help Romney get some of the votes he needs to win the Oval Office job or whether Ryan will turn out to be another Sara Palin like pick by a nominee: a seemingly hail Mary that fizzed on voting day. Opinions are now split and — no surprise...

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Hey, Wait a Minute! That Doesn't Mean Romney Plans to Go with Ryan's Budget Plan

POSTED BY **PRAIRIE WEATHER** AUG 11TH, 2012 | **7 COMMENTS**



The EtchASketch has been busy this morning as the Romney campaign backs away from Paul Ryan. TPM reports:The Ryan budget is the reason why both conservative Republicans and Democrats are over the moon at the Ryan pick.

Conservatives think the pair of tough budget packages written for the House GOP by Ryan since 2011 mean Romney is ready to run on potentially unpopular cuts to government programs in the name of fiscal responsibility. Democrats see the Ryan pick as a chance to return to the fight...

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Marvelous Romney and Ryan

POSTED BY CAGLE CARTOONS

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- Electoral Vote.Com
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- Europe News
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- Fact or Fiction
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- First Read (NBC)
- Food Blogga (food blog)

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The Awesomeness of Paul Ryan

POSTED BY KATHLEEN MCKINLEY, GUEST VOICE COLUMNIST AUG 11TH, 2012 | 23 COMMENTS

Just to continue to help you get to know the awesomeness that is Paul Ryan, here he is teaching economics to Pres. Obama, Timothy Geithner, Chris Matthews, and Debbie Wasserman Shultz. All simply delicious. It's clear Ryan knows his stuff. He's a numbers guy. He is a very intelligent guy. He is exactly what America needs to get our fiscal house in order. The Romney team already has an ad up with Ryan featured. Really good. Thoughtful and civil comments about the topic are welcomed...

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The Real, The Personal Reason, Romney Picked Ryan

POSTED BY MICHAEL SILVERSTEIN, WALL STREET COLUMNIST AUG 11TH, 2012 | 6 COMMENTS

The pundits will give all sorts of reasons why Mitt Romney picked Rep. Paul Ryan as his running mate. They will say it's an attempt to rev up the right wing of his party and pull in even more big bucks from its campaign contributors. They might also say it will help Romney's chances with Ryan's present constituency in swing state Wisconsin. This is all probably correct. But I think there was a more personal reason at work here. Mitt Romney has been feeling badly misunderstood in...

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It's the Daddy Warbucks and Baby Scrooge ticket!

POSTED BY KAY WOOD AUG 11TH, 2012 | 9 COMMENTS

Mitt Romney named Paul Ryan for his VP choice. Paul Ryan, really? The kick the old and the poor to the ground and step on their faces in his rush to give more money to the rich Paul Ryan? Well, if anyone had doubts about Romney's agenda,

- Frank Lynch
- Freelance Genius
- Friends of Democracy (Iraq election news)
- Frostfirepulse
- Gawker
- Gay Orbit
- Global Voices
- · Global Voices.
- Globe of Blogs
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- http://www.incredimailtooutlook.org
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- Iran Focus
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Paul Ryan is Mitt Romney's VP Pick!

POSTED BY KATHLEEN MCKINLEY, GUEST VOICE COLUMNIST AUG 11TH, 2012 | 8 COMMENTS

I could not be more pleased. There were four contenders I would have been happy with, and three I wouldn't have, but Ryan was at the top of the list of the ones I would be happy with. He is beyond smart, and very passionate about our country. If this election is about getting our spending under control, and bringing us back into prosperity, then Paul Ryan is the perfect pick. Like Romney, he is not a fire breather. He is smart and steady as it goes. This is what we need. Leadership, not celebrity. Here...

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Romney-Ryan Makes It A Choice, Not A Referendum

POSTED BY TAYLOR MARSH, GUEST VOICE COLUMNIST AUG 11TH, 2012 | 4 COMMENTS



WASHINGTON – What optics. With the USS Wisconsin as the stage, Gov. Bob McDonnell announced Mitt Romney, who jogged down to the platform set up to introduce conservative darling Paul Ryan. This race will not be a referendum on Pres.

Obama. And Romney will not go out with any cards left on the table. There's also no other pick that could have turned the page more sharply back to economics. In life, whenever you make big decisions, the only way you weather the outcome no matter what it might...

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Six Things You May Be Surprised To Learn About Paul Ryan

POSTED BY KATHY GILL, TECHNOLOGY POLICY ANALYST AUG 11TH, 2012 | 2 COMMENTS

Or not. In the 112th Congress, Paul Ryan (R-WI) is one of the most powerful members of the GOP. He's the House Budget Committee Chairman. And reportedly will be named Mitt Romney's running mate later today. 1. Paul Ryan (R-WI) was elected to Congress in 1998. At the age of 28. "I learned economics working for Jack Kemp," he said in 1999. Kemp served in the George H.W. Bush administration, and he was Bob Dole's running mate in 1996. And in case you forgot, Kemp was the supply-side...

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- Mr. D's Daily Ventriloquist Journal

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R & R: Romney and Ryan It is

POSTED BY DR. CLARISSA PINKOLA ESTÉS, MANAGING EDITOR OF TMV, AND COLUMNIST

AUG 11TH, 2012 | 5 COMMENTS



WaPo reports at 7:30 am Eastern Time, that it's Ryan who will be the man running for VP slot with Romney. R-R, Rom and Rya. RR. Re Romney's purported idea of 'unveiling' his veep choice at the site of the once fast-ship—the USS Wisconsin— who

served well, but is now a mothballed and delisted military ship, the USS Wisconsin (now designated as a tourist attraction/ museum adding to the tax base) –well, perhaps a more vigorous, active ship of muscle and might...

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Holding the White House Is Not Enough

POSTED BY ROBERT STEIN
AUG 11TH, 2012 | 3 COMMENTS

For the moment, all goes well on the Obama-Romney front as the President bumps upward in the polls amid the savagery of personal attacks by both sides. Yet the main 2012 issue is being lost in the hate Olympics: Will the American people take back their government from a Congress that has brought it to a standstill and threatens four more years of deadlock if Barack Obama is reelected? Despite head-to-head presidential intensity, little will change if Democrats keep the White House and lose the legislative...

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Quick Thoughts on Romney Veep Announcement

POSTED BY MARK DANIELS
AUG 11TH, 2012 | 3 COMMENTS

The media is reporting that Mitt Romney will be announcing his vice presidential pick at 9:00 on Saturday morning and that the choice will likely be Wisconsin congressman Paul Ryan. If Ryan is the pick, he will excite the Republican base which sees him as a true conservative. Ryan is intelligent, experienced, and an acknowledged expert on fiscal matters. He served on the Simpson-Bowles budget commission, ultimately dissenting from his recommendations. (That hardly will make him a pariah, though,...

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- Orato
- Ourblook.com
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- Pajamas Media
- Pakistan Policy Blog
- Palm Trees In The Ghetto
- Philadelphia Inquirer political blog
- PhiloBiblos (Book reviews and related book and library subjects)
- Philosoraptor
- Political Correctness Watch
- Political State Report
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Romney To Announce VP Pick On Saturday

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(Updated)

POSTED BY PATRICK EDABURN, ASSISTANT EDITOR AUG 10TH, 2012 | NO COMMENTS



Update: It is looking increasingly like it will be Paul Ryan (CNN, AP, NBC, etc reporting it) Since the announcement is set to happen at 6am Pacific time it is unlikely I will be up to watch, so I will offer a few thoughts on a Ryan pick. Personally I think

this would be a very bad pick for the Romney campaign. The only real benefits he seems to get from the choice are 1) it is something of a surprise given the conventional wisdom of the past few weeks and 2) it helps to excite the hard right base...

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Tammy Smith: Our Military's First Openly Gay General

POSTED BY DORIAN DE WIND, MILITARY AFFAIRS COLUMNIST AUG 10TH, 2012 | 2 COMMENTS



While it may feel different to our gay and lesbian servicemembers, it seems only yesterday that the discriminatory law known as "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" was finally and formally repealed. The date was September 20, 2011, and this is part of

what the President of the United States said on the occasion: Today, the discriminatory law known as 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell' is finally and formally repealed. As of today, patriotic Americans in uniform will no longer have to lie about...

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Post-9/11 GI Bill Celebrates Start of Fourth Year

POSTED BY DORIAN DE WIND, MILITARY AFFAIRS COLUMNIST AUG 10TH, 2012 | NO COMMENTS



The Post 9/11 Veterans Education Assistance Act of 2008, also known as the New G.I. Bill or the Post-9/11 GI Bill, was finally signed into law on June 30, 2008, after a long and fierce opposition led, surprisingly, by some GOP politicians. But

in the end it was the strong bipartisan support by Members of Congress such as Sen. Jim Webb, D-Va. and Sen. John Warner, R-Va. that won the day for our veterans. Four years after its passage and three years after its full implementation, the New G.I. Bill...

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Romney Now Apparently Wants His Business Record Off Limits

POSTED BY JOE GANDELMAN, EDITOR-IN-CHIEF AUG 10TH, 2012 | 21 COMMENTS



It's getting so it's hard to figure out what Mitt Romney will agree to discuss with President Barack Obama in the campaign, unless he only wants it to be about the economy or the latest episode of "Breaking Bad."Will Walter White kill Jesse in the

end? Or Will Jesse find out Walter's role in the death of his girlfriend and that poisoning of the kid? Will Skyler survive the final season? It's coming down to that: the economy, Obama and anything but Mitt Romney's...

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Jon Huntsman, Sr. to Mitt Romney: Release More Tax Returns

POSTED BY JOE GANDELMAN, EDITOR-IN-CHIEF AUG 10TH, 2012 | 5 COMMENTS

The issue of presumptive Republican nominee Mitt Romney's tax returns just won't go away. And the latest call comes from GOP who was once considered close to Romney: Jon Huntsman, Sr: Jon Huntsman Sr. called on Mitt Romney to release his tax returns Friday, complaining that the Republican nominee was not being "fair" with voters. "I feel very badly that Mitt won't release his taxes and won't be fair with the American people," Huntsman told the Washington Post. He said Romney...

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Romney Veepstakes 2012: Why Mitt Should Pick Chris Christie

POSTED BY MICHAEL STICKINGS, ASSISTANT EDITOR AUG 10TH, 2012 | 7 COMMENTS

My associate editor Richard Barry and I have been predicting Christie for months. For more, see, for example, "'Husky and Starch': The best GOP ticket and Obama's worst nightmare." ********** "Romney Faces Pressure From Right to Put Ryan on Ticket," says the Times. "Why not Paul Ryan?" asks the Journal. Well, because then the election could turn on the Ayn-Rand-loving Ryan's far-right budget slashing tax rates for the rich and slashing...

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POSTED BY DORIAN DE WIND, MILITARY AFFAIRS COLUMNIST AUG 10TH, 2012 | NO COMMENTS



As the London Summer Olympics draw to a close, we wish the last two military Olympians yet to compete every success. They are: • Spc. Dennis Bowsher, 29, of Dallas, who will compete in modern pentathlon, a five-sport event that includes

fencing, swimming, equestrian show jumping, cross country and laser pistol shooting all in the same day, tomorrow, August 11. • Staff Sgt. John Nunn, a dental hygienist, who will compete tomorrow in the 50-kilometer race-walk event in the Olympics, an event he...

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Could Jon Huntsman Sr. be the Source of Harry Reid Charge Romney Didn't Pay Taxes for 10 Years?

POSTED BY **JANET SHAN**AUG 10TH, 2012 | 9 **COMMENTS**

Could Jon Huntsman Sr. be the Source of Harry Reid Charge Romney Didn't Pay Taxes for 10 Years? (Attribution Unknown) Could Jon Huntsman Sr. be the source of Sen. Harry Reid's (D-NV) charge that Mitt Romney didn't pay taxes for 10 years? The Daily Kos thinks so because Huntsman Sr. is business partners with Robert C. Gay, who was Bain Capital's managing director between 1989 and 2004. In other words, who else would have the inside scoop on any fancy financial shenanigans that...

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As a Former Mormon Missionary, Romney's European Gaffes Were Well Calculated (Die Zeit, Germany)

POSTED BY WILLIAM KERN (WORLDMEETS.US)
AUG 10TH, 2012 | 1 COMMENT

Is it possible that the apparent gaffes Mitt Romney made visiting Europe and Israel were not gaffes at all – but the calculated fruits of his experience as a missionary in France? For Germany's Die Zeit, former Mormon and duel U.S.-German citizen Eric T. Hansen writes that if Mitt Romney wins in November, for the first time in a long time perhaps, there will be a U.S. president that really knows Europeans – and not necessarily in a good way. For Die Zeit, Eric T. Hansen writes...

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POSTED BY PRAIRIE WEATHER AUG 10TH, 2012 | 3 COMMENTS



"The larger strategic point," according to the Wall Street Journal's endorsement of Ryan for veep, "is that Mr. Romney's best chance for victory is to make this a big election over big issues." And Ryan, says Ezra Klein, "is Mr. Big Issues." But Klein

sees it differently. ... The smaller, more Machiavellian point is that Ryan is Romney's best chance to diffuse the blame if he loses this election. If Romney chooses the proverbial "incredibly boring white...

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Romney Hint: Paul Ryan for Vice Presidential Pick?

POSTED BY **JOE GANDELMAN**, **EDITOR-IN-CHIEF** AUG 10TH, 2012 | **1 COMMENT**

Presumptive Republican Presidential nominee Mitt Romney is expected to announced his Vice Presidential pick any day now — some analysts believe it could come today. And did he drop a hint that it's going to be Rep. Paul Ryan, the Wisconsiner highly popular with conservatives but also highly controversial, someone Democrats dream Romney will name? The National Journal thinks so: Mitt Romney remained tight-lipped about his vice presidential pick in a taped interview with NBC, part of which...

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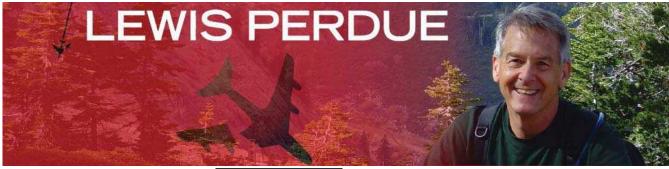
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MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 6, 2004

Middle Men

Political independents' clout grows

Reviewed by Lewis Perdue

AMERICANS DISHEARTENED by the sludge-stained rhetoric of the 2004 presidential campaign can take heart that democracy has survived the same offal mess over and over for 228 years, and probably will prevail this year, thanks to the pragma equilibrium of the electorate's centrist majority.

Independent Nation

By John P. Avlon Harmony Books; 400 pages; \$24

Independent Nation, or How the Vital Center Is Changing American Politics documents a centrist and increasingly independent voting majority in America, too libera to be Republican and too conservative to be Democratic.

For "the past several decades, the Democratic and Republican parties have become increasingly identified with their most fundamental wings -- the 'religious right" and the

'lifestyle left" -- a relatively small number of extreme partisans who view their opponents as enemies and seem obsessed with imposing their beliefs on the rest of the American people," John P. Avlon writes. He uses polling data to show that the percentage people describing themselves as independents has risen from 23% 50 years ago to 40% in 2000 and is even higher in Gen X.

And the percentage of centrists who eschew liberal or conservative labels rose from 36% in 1980 to 50% in 2000. "Not The matching system allows SawyTaste users - from coincidentally," says Avlon, "as our professional politicians have become more partisan, Americans have reacted by voting in a new era of divided government ... [in] pursuit of the implicit assurance that extremists in one party won't be able to hijack the national legislative agenda."

In highly readable prose that is equal parts history, strategy and manifesto, Avlon, a former aide to Democrat Bill Clinton and

Republican Rudy Giuliani, unites nearly two dozen profiles of politicians -- from Teddy Roosevelt, Harry Truman and Dwight Eisenhower to JFK and Sen. Edward Brooke -- into a rewarding portrait of a political trend the established parties have tried to ignore.

To the dismay, and often surprise, of both Democrats and Republicans, when given a choice, centrists reject both parties and elect independents. Among the profiles in Independent Nation are those of three independent governors -- Lowell Weicker of Connecticut, Angus King of Maine and (of course) Minnesota's Jesse Ventura. Avlon uses them to point out that today's independent candidate taps into a centrist viewpoint, not the extremist ideologies that fueled third parties in the past -- Strom Thurmond and George Wallace on the right, Henry Wallace and Ralph Nader on the left.

The rise of this increasing militant majority of centrists should scare the pants off the selfappointed kingmakers at the RNC and DNC. But Avlon notes that despite polling data showing substantial majority support for school vouchers, a woman's right to choose, a balanced budget, campaign-finance reform, tort reform and a host of other opinions that transcend party dogma, "neither party entirely represents the interests of these voters because they are still influenced by the ideological relics of the Industrial Age."

Avlon stresses that centrists are far more interested in solving problems than in endless ideological debate. Results count, not rheto But what the two parties dish out is "rule or ruin" -- if you can't rule the party, then ruin the opposition.

"Liberals on the far left and conservatives on the far right each try to deny centrist leaders legitimacy in office because their reforms represent a direct challenge to the special interests that make up the base of both parties," says Avlon.

That makes the centrist candidate's path rocky, as John McCain learned in 2000. McCain, according to Avlon, infuriated the GOI establishment "with his refusal to play ball with big business and the religious right, while capturing the imagination of independents and reform Democrats to such an extent that polls showed that he would have beaten Al Gore decisively."

But neither the parties nor their vested special interests can afford a reshaping of American politics. Thus, it was no surprise that, a

LOOK INSIDE!™

INDEPENDENT



When prominent Mississippi civil rights attorney asks renowned neurosurgeon Bradford Stone to help her save the life of a white racist condemned to death for the cold case murder of a black man, he has no idea that he is about to be dragged through a deadly past he thought he had escaped once religious right for helping to remove McCain from the competition. and for all.

Set mostly in Mississippi – primarily the Delta Republicans alike. region where the real-life gothic exceeds the

most outlandish Flannery O'Connor story -Perfect Killer tells the story of a future which can never break free of the past.

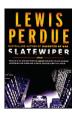
The mystery is centered in the Mississippi Delta in a top-secret military project begun decades ago in a facility once housing German POWs. The program, Project Enduring Valor, is designed to create the ultimate human killing machine.

For over seventy years, has sought the Holy Grail of combat medicine: a chemical compound that would turn ordinary soldiers into weapons of mass destruction, the Perfect Killers.

Now, after decades of covert trial and error which have resulted in troubling side effects such as the My Lai massacre, Enduring Valor is ready to be implemented on a massive scale-despite a few troubling side-effects.

Before he knows it, Stone himself in the sights of the Project's director, a retired general and war hero turned presidential candidate. To get back his life, and expose the truth, Stone must struggle with the South's racist legacy, the demons of his past and penetrate the very heart of the lethal conspiracy.

Visit the Perfect Killer web site



Fed by greed and notions of racial superiority, a huge global biotech corporation is about to unleash a killer gene that has rested undisturbed inside every human being for thousands of years.

Their purpose: to control the most diabolical weapon of mass destruction ever designed: a racial bomb which targets only members of specific ethnic groups and it's available to the highest bidder, be they government or terrorist.

Go to Slatewiper.com

McCain won the New Hampshire primary by nearly 20 points, the Bush campaign "began blanketing the airwaves with ads attack McCain, spending an estimated \$50 million." The religious right stepped in with a sleazy campaign of anonymous phone calls allegi that McCain "had collaborated with the North Vietnamese, fathered illegitimate children, [that] his wife was a drug addict." This showed how organized parties can keep the centrist majority from choosing a candidate they prefer.

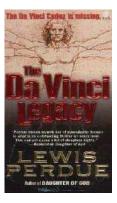
While neither major party is willing or able to kick the addiction to special interests, both know an election can't be won without centrist voters. So the parties carefully shape a message to appear more centrist than they really are.

But Avlon notes that trouble will brew if there isn't some element of truth in advertising. If the elected officials don't deliver what is promised, they're likely to find themselves out after one term, something Avlon explores in analyzing, among other people, Jimmy

Aylon also says that George W. Bush co-opted many Clinton-Gore centrist positions, then moved way to the right to reward the

In all, Independent Nation offers lessons that, judging by this year's campaign rhetoric, are being ignored by Democrats and

LEWIS PERDUE is the author of 19 published books and has been a top aide to a Democratic governor and a Republican U.S.



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A Sampling Of Lew's Other Web Sites

Books'n Blues, A charity fundraiser that Lew is organizing in his hometown of Greenwood, Mississippi to make an opportunity to create opportunities

<u>Tagdot</u>, Online resources and communication exchange for the synthetic and open-source biology community, a place where genetic engineering is SO last century.

<u>Daughter of God</u>, The original art and Vatican conspiracy thriller about religion and the search for the lost Goddess in Christianity.

The Da Vinci Crock This is a blog covering the Random House/Dan Brown plagiarism court case.

<u>Writopia</u> This is a blog covering Dan Brown's various fabrications, boasts and fictional inflation of his life and accomplishments.

TeeShirtTeeshirt.Com, A silly online store selling humorous tee shirts, hats, shot glasses, wine glasses, mugs and other stuff either connected with Lew's books or created by Lew's son, William who maintains the site

The French Paradox and Beyond, The best-selling book on wine and health. The entire text is available free.

Eroticabiz: How Sex Shaped The Internet, The best-selling analysis of the adult industry's role in developing the online world's major technologies: from video streams to payment systems. The entire text is available free.

<u>YourTechWorx</u>, My son, William's business site.

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Apr 07

John Avlon, Dennis Miller and Independent Nation

By Grant

John Avlon, author of **Independent Nation**, was on Dennis Miller last night and his argument raises some interesting problems. These are both anthropological and political.

Avlon says that a very large group of citizens (as much as 60%) are liberal on social issues and conservative on economic ones.

Lets suppose this is true. This implies that American voters once "signed on with a party, and accepted the "party line on all, or most, other issues. One choice made all the other choices. (Or maybe it ran in the other direction: you made all your individual choices and then looked to see which party matched these most closely). It also suggests that this "aggregating model" is now in trouble.

There are of course several million issues here. I want to raise just a couple.

1. Avlons "independent nation is strictly speaking a prolongation of the old system. Citizens are still grouping. They are in this case actually massing. They may even be making a single decision that makes them appear to run both left and right. (It would take some ethnography to find out if this is so).

This is to say that "independent nation is not very independent. These people are merely "resplicing the DNA of the political system. They have found a new logic that lets them choose "a from one menu and "b from another. In the process, they have constructed a new "solid body political choice, and amassed, if Avlon is right, a new and very large political constituency.

2. The next question is this: Is this it? Is this as independent as the American voter ever going to get? Or is there a bigger development here waiting to happen? It might be that if individuals have courage and imagination enough to refuse the old "one choice model, they may have courage and imagination enough to just keep going.

In this event, citizens would treat all political issues as a matrix and they would make choices from this matrix without regard to party lines, community groups, or the aggregating effects of any larger loyalty. They would, in other words, make every political choice discretely. Where they stood on military spending would tell us absolutely nothing about what they thought about school spending. Where they stood on the death penalty would have no predictive power about where they stood on the United Nations.

This matrix model is the real "independent nation. Naturally, it strikes us as implausible that the political world could ever and utterly disaggregate in this way. Surely, we suppose, some of these decisions will continue to pool, to school, to run in packs... insert your metaphor for aggregation here. But it is technically possible that a real independent nation could establish itself.

You would have to know more about political science than I ever will to comment on whether this is a foreseeable future or not, but you dont have to be a political philosopher to see what it means for representative democracy. It makes a hash of it. Representation can only make sense if my choice of Democratic or Republican (or in the Canadian case, NDP, Liberal and Conservative) sets in train a series of choices by my surrogate in the house with which I am likely to agree. In a matrix world, the correspondence between my representatives choice and my choice will be only a little better than random.

Well, the obvious point to make here is that the old system of representative politics presumed a world that has now passed. We have the technology to poll and eventually poll we shall, issue by issue.

3) And this raises a third point, where these issues come back together. Howard Rheingold gives us a vision of "smart mobs (and recent events have made this something more than a vision) in which the wishes and the will of the individual has everything to do with the group. He/she will be carried forward by a momentum that marshals suddenly and in many cases fleetingly. Sudden aggregations of opinion come and go, creating sudden group effects that exert tremendous gravitation effects before they disappear without a trace.

Now to play the science fiction card, this might open up the possibility of a political universe in which aggregations as substantial and thoroughgoing as "democrat and "republican could form in the dynamic field of political choice, but only for a very brief moment and the aggregations that followed might be altogether discontinuous, drawing on different issues, new cultural logics, an entirely different lens for parsing the cause for action and assembly. In this scenario, the group effect is back in, but it is so sudden and passing that it might as well be individual. It is, if you see what I mean, that discrete. Or to put this another way, the group effect no longer works, as it does now, as a gravitation field that organizes political discourse and gives it consistency and scale. Now the group effect is cause for dynamism and variety.

4) There are many things to think and rethink here, but I thought Dennis Miller might make a useful case in point for closing. First, he has moved apparently from liberal politics to a more conservative position. And this is a little striking. Comics, esp. stand up comics, used to be a domain that belonged to the liberal left (think Mort Saul). The rise of P.J. ORourke was at first hard to think. "Wait, you cant be funny *and* conservative. Conservatives are supposed to be humorless blow-hards. That Miller can be a conservative is evidence of a new ideological looseness, a cultural uncoupling, in our culture.

Miller appears to have taken up the liberal-conservative position that Avlon has in mind. So here too he gives us evidence of someone breaking with the old "forms of politics and exercising a more independent cast of mind than the "lock step one. Miller is, perhaps, supra-categorical. He encourages the idea that the existing categories cannot hold the new diversity, and perhaps even the larger, much more stunning possibility, that no set of categories can.

But, finally, Miller insists on taking a "My President, right or wrong position that does not seem to leave him much room for the exercise of independence. This may be his "war footing and it will be interesting to see what happens here when things are a little less perilous.

In sum, Avlons book suggests a reworking of the old system even as it gives some small indication of the possibility of its demise. But even if the group effect is now in decline, we might well see its quite spectacular return in the form of the "smart mob."

Categories: Anthropology of Contemporary Culture

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- Fed Ex as a game engine (1)
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In the matter of application Serial No. 77/514,179 Published in the *Official Gazette* on December 29, 2009

JOHN PHILLIPS AVLON, an individual)
Opposer,	
v.	Opposition No. 91194679
DEMARCUS FREEMON, an individual	
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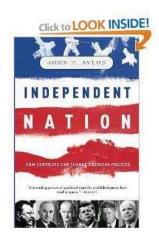
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Independent Nation: How Centrism Can Change American Politics [Paperback]

John Avlon (Author)

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Book Description

Publication Date: February 22, 2005

With a fighting spirit, a fresh perspective, and flashes of humor, John P. Avlon tells the story of the vital center in American politics, from Theodore Roosevelt to the present day. *Independent Nation* is a rallying cry for the moderate majority of Americans who are tired of the intolerant voices on the far right and left and choose instead to walk an independent path between these extremes in the belief that what we share as Americans is far greater than what divides us.

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Editorial Reviews

From Publishers Weekly

Avlon, a columnist for the New York Sun, a staffer in Clinton's 1996 election campaign and former chief speechwriter for Rudy Giuliani, argues that centrism, "the rising political force in modern American life," also offers the best chance for America to prosper. Part history, part political philosophy, part roadmap for centrists, this volume demonstrates Avlon's thesis by exploring political battlegrounds-from state primaries to presidential campaigns-in which a centrist message succeeded. To Avlon centrism is not a matter of compromise or reading polls; rather it's an antidote to the politics of divisiveness, providing principled opposition to political extremes. His description of Maine Republican senator Margaret

Chase Smith's morally and politically courageous Senate speech rejecting McCarthyism four years before the Senate censured him embodies Avlon's view of centrism, and he uses that example to demonstrate the value of centrists like Smith to the body politic. Perhaps the most remarkable achievement he describes was that of Earl Warren, who in 1946 ran for governor of California in the Republican, Democratic and Progressive primaries- and won all three. Avlon's centrist tent is a large one: the political campaigns of presidents as diverse as Theodore Roosevelt, Wilson, JFK, Nixon and Clinton are chronicled to demonstrate the staying power and effectiveness of centrist politics. But his broad definition of centrism somewhat undercuts his thesis, and his failure to address the times when centrist politics may not have been appropriate-the New Deal era, for example-also leaves lingering questions. Still, Avlon's argument that centrism is good for America is appealing. Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

From Booklist

Former Rudy Giuliani speechwriter Avlon posits that political accomplishment has stemmed and should continue to stem from a centrist posture. Avlon goes on to chronicle the careers of such disparate "centrists" as Teddy Roosevelt, Jimmy Carter, Bill Clinton, Jesse Ventura, and--yes--Rudy Giuliani, to name but a few. As for his theory, Arthur Schlesinger gave a superior outline in his book *The Vital Center* (1988). Avlon also seems to cherish only one model of a centrist--the budgetary conservative with his fingers on the pulse of politically correct social issues. Still, the author makes a good point when he suggests that political parties should be able to bridge various policies that would appear to be perfect fits (e.g., if maximizing freedom of choice is one's concern, why shouldn't pro-choice liberals take school choice vouchers under their umbrella?). The fault, Avlon suggests, lies in the curse of special-interest politics. In all, the book's salvation lies in the essay-size bios, which are very revealing, instructive, and full of new insights about stories we thought we already knew. *Allen Weakland Copyright* © *American Library Association. All rights reserved --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.*

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Product Details

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Much better then Prozac Nation, or The Nation of Islam March 18, 2004

By Larry Kincaid

Format: Hardcover

John Avlon's book Independent Nation, distinguishes itself from the pack of jeremiads against our polarized political culture via his ability to use small points to prove larger ones. He weaves a rich tapestry from the fabric of American history that allows the reader an insight not only into political giants such as Moynihan and Giuliani's policies, but there persons as well. By including sections about lesser known figures Avlon shows that while we do live in a unique time, this is not the first generation whose politics were personal or polarized.

One of the most fascinating parts of the book is the section on Edward Brooke, who is an often forgotten figure in the struggle for civil rights. How did a black Republican get elected to the US Senate in white Democratic Massachusetts? Avlon argues that by pursuing the "vital center" he was elected first in 1966 and then re-elected in 1972 even as Nixon was losing the state. The arguments he uses to buttress this point are impressive and well-thought out.

Is there a vital center anymore? The fringes of both parties take out their vengeance via the primaries on any person who puts forth what Dick Morris called the "triangulation strategy" and but yet we sometimes let great leaders slip by like Guliani, Moynihan and even Clinton.

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I was disappointed with the book. The first part of the book had a description of 'Centrism' that is relatively well-reasoned. Read more
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Inspiring

As a young independent voter, I am frequently mocked as too liberal for my Republican friends and as an "apologist for coporate America" by my Democrat friends. Read more
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I once read that we get the politics we deserve rather than those that we desire. Avlon illustrates this with countless examples of people who were excoriated by their own parties and often only appreciated in historical retrospect. Where have you gone Daniel Moynihan....

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A Sharp Political History of Centrism...And A Vital Roadmap March 3, 2004

By Rick Wilson

Format: Hardcover

John Avlon's Independent Nation is a cogent and nuanced history of the profoundly independent character of American political life. As a historical education in the lives of leaders who defied the conventional political wisdom of their times by steering an independent path we see icons from Teddy Roosevelt to Rudy Giuliani. They sometimes left their base voters puzzled but won accolades from the vast center. In these character and leadership profiles, Independent Nation shines. Both parties continue to wage primary battles that mandate we follow Nixon's dicta: run for your base in the primary, run in the center for the general. As the fractures on the far left and far right combine with increasing vocal constituency groups at either end of the spectrum, getting back to the center in either campaigns or governance becomes more challenging, though as Avlon's work demonstrates, more vital than ever.

Independent Nation serves as a smart roadmap for campaigners, historians and those interested in the tidal flow of ideological life in America. It is a picture not only of what effective leadership from the center of our nation has been, but is becoming.

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Worth reading! July 24, 2005

By Frank

Format: Paperback

Avlon makes some good points, and his book is worth reading, particularly for its insights on what went wrong in the Carter administration.

On the other hand, Avlon sometimes stretches the evidence to make a point, so that he even winds up contradicting himself.

Writing about Nixon as a typical moderate, Avlon says that Nixon rejected the Republican appeal to racist southern votes, and that Nixon strove to reassure voters he "was no Wallace." Nixon was "ultimately successful" in desegregating southern schools, and is finally quoted as writing that "Republicans must not go prospecting for the fool's gold of racist votes."

But when later writing about African-American Senator Edward Brooke's role as a moderate, Avlon claims that Brooke was constantly fighting the Nixon administration's "southern strategy," now claiming that Nixon himself was appropriating "George Wallace's blue-collar southern segregationist support." To signal his support of the South, Nixon here is said to have nominated to the Supreme Court Haynsworth, who had questionable commitment to civil rights, and then nominated Carswell, who was "spectacularly unqualified," though Southern, and believed in segregation. The Nixon administration had an "intentionally slow timetable for desegregation." Here, BROOKE, not Nixon, is quoted as calling the search for southern racist votes "fool's gold."

The book is worth reading, but beware the stretched facts.

The binding in the book I bought was cheaply made.

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Outdated and truly UN-moderate

Finds too much fault with the left but does little to criticize the rightwing fascists. To Avalon, himself a worker under Rudy Guliani who goes fundraising all the time for his... Read more Published on September 30, 2005 by Barbara McGurk

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